

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 43-46, 49-52, 61-64, 67, 69 and 71 are now pending in the application, with Claims 43, 49 and 61 being independent. Claims 48, 54, 66, 68, 70 and 72 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 43, 49, 54, 61, 67, 69 and 71 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicants' undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner and his Supervisory Patent Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of August 8, 2006. During that interview, the differences between the claimed invention and U.S. Patent No. 5,481,353 (Hicks et al.) were discussed. The arguments and responses presented during that interview are sufficiently set forth in the Interview Summary. The claims have been further amended herein to further distinguish the claims from the citations of record.

Claims 43, 44, 46, 48-50, 52, 54, 61, 62, 64 and 66-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hicks et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With the present invention, a plurality of output formats can be realized by adding a new print control command to a job command without increasing the printing data sent from the information processing apparatus.

Hicks et al. relates to an apparatus that can produce variable feature presentation sets. As shown in Figure 4, for example, a first output can include transparency sheet 1T including a full color image 210, divider 1D also including a miniaturized version of the full color image 210 as well as detailed explanation portions 214, a master set including sheet 1M identical to transparency 1T, as well as sheets 1MA and 1MB providing additional background information 216, and hand-out sets 1H, 1HA and 1HB. As discussed during the interview, because the different output formats can have different output data (e.g., divider 1D includes additional information 214 as well as image 210 from transparency 1T), a single print job in Hicks et al. would not necessarily include a group of job commands and data to be printed, with the group of job commands including a command for the plurality of output formats. Although that explicit language is no longer recited in the claims, it is respectfully submitted that Hicks et al. does not disclose or suggest that each single print job includes a header part describing a print control command and a print data part described by a print language, and enables the printing apparatus to print a plurality of output formats by adding a command to the header part at the direction of an information processing apparatus, as is now recited in independent Claims 43, 49 and 61.

Nor does Hicks et al. disclose or suggest at least producing each single print job comprising the header part having a group of job commands describing the print control command and the print data part described by the print language, as well as adding a new a print control command designating the plurality of output formats to the group of job commands in the header part of each print job in case that a printing mode for printing the plurality of output formats is selected, as is also recited in the independent claims.

Thus, Hicks et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, independent Claims 43, 49 and 61 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 43, 49 and 61. Dependent Claims 44-46, 50-52, 62-64 and 67, 69 and 71 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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